

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 862

To authorize the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to make urban university business initiative grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25 (legislative day, MAY 15), 1995

Mr. HATFIELD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to make urban university business initiative grants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Small Business
5 Enhancement Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. URBAN UNIVERSITY BUSINESS INITIATIVE GRANTS.**

7 (a) URBAN UNIVERSITY BUSINESS INITIATIVE
8 GRANTS.—

9 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administrator of
10 the Small Business Administration (hereafter in this

1 section referred to as the “Administrator”) may
2 make grants to eligible institutions in accordance
3 with this section.

4 (2) APPLICATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution
6 seeking assistance under this section shall sub-
7 mit to the Administrator an application at such
8 time, in such form, and containing or accom-
9 panied by such information and assurances as
10 the Administrator may require by regulation.

11 (B) CONTENTS.—Except as provided in
12 subparagraph (C), each application submitted
13 pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include—

14 (i) a description of the activities and
15 services for which assistance is sought;

16 (ii) evidence of coordination with any
17 small business development center in exist-
18 ence in the community; and

19 (iii) documentation of the formation
20 of a consortium that includes, in addition
21 to eligible institutions, one or more of the
22 following entities:

23 (I) A nonprofit organization.

24 (II) A business or other em-
25 ployer.

1 (C) WAIVER.—The Administrator may
2 waive the requirements of subparagraph (B)(iii)
3 for any applicant who can demonstrate to the
4 satisfaction of the Administrator that the appli-
5 cant has devised an integrated and coordinated
6 plan that otherwise meets the requirements of
7 this section.

8 (3) SELECTION PROCEDURES.—Not later than
9 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
10 Administrator shall by regulation develop a formal
11 procedure for the submission of applications under
12 this section and shall publish in the Federal Register
13 an announcement of that procedure and the avail-
14 ability of funds under this section.

15 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds provided under this
17 section shall be used to design and implement pro-
18 grams to assist businesses, especially those in lower
19 income urban communities, to become more produc-
20 tive and able to compete in the global marketplace.

21 (2) SPECIFIC AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Activi-
22 ties conducted with funds made available under this
23 section may include research on, or planning and im-
24 plementation of technology transfer, technical train-

1 ing, the delivery of services, or technical assistance
2 in—

3 (A) business development;

4 (B) business creation;

5 (C) business expansion; and

6 (D) human resource management.

7 (c) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
9 after the date on which the Administrator publishes
10 the announcement in the Federal Register in accord-
11 ance with subsection (a)(3), the Administrator shall
12 appoint a peer review panel (hereafter in this section
13 referred to as the “panel”).

14 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—In appointing the panel
15 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consult
16 with officials of other Federal agencies and with
17 non-Federal organizations in order to ensure that—

18 (A) the panel membership is geographically
19 balanced; and

20 (B) the panel is composed of representa-
21 tives from public and private institutions of
22 higher education, labor, business, and nonprofit
23 organizations having expertise in business de-
24 velopment in lower income urban communities.

25 (3) DUTIES.—The panel shall—

1 (A) review applications submitted under
2 this section; and

3 (B) make recommendations to the Admin-
4 istrator concerning the selection of grant recipi-
5 ents.

6 (d) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—

7 (1) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The Adminis-
8 trator shall not provide assistance under this section
9 to any recipient in an amount that exceeds \$400,000
10 during any 1-year period.

11 (2) EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—
12 The Administrator shall award grants under this
13 section in a manner that achieves equitable geo-
14 graphic distribution of such grants.

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the
16 following definitions shall apply:

17 (1) LOWER INCOME URBAN COMMUNITY.—The
18 term “lower income urban community” means an
19 urban area in which the percent of residents living
20 below the Federal poverty level is not less than 115
21 percent of the statewide average.

22 (2) URBAN AREA.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
24 subparagraph (B), the term “urban area”
25 means a primary metropolitan statistical area

1 of the Bureau of the Census, Department of
2 Commerce.

3 (B) EXCEPTION.—With respect to a State
4 that does not contain an urban area, as defined
5 in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall
6 designate 1 area in the State as an urban area
7 for purposes of this section.

8 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—

9 (A) INSTITUTION OR CONSORTIUM.—The
10 term “eligible institution” means a nonprofit in-
11 stitution of higher education that meets the re-
12 quirements of subparagraph (b), or a consor-
13 tium of such institutions, any 1 of which meets
14 the requirements of subparagraph (B).

15 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—An institution
16 meets the requirements of this subparagraph if
17 the institution—

18 (i) is located in an urban area;

19 (ii) draws a substantial portion of its
20 undergraduate students from the urban
21 area in which such institution is located, or
22 from contiguous areas;

23 (iii) carries out programs to make
24 postsecondary educational opportunities

1 more accessible to residents of such urban
2 area, or contiguous areas;

3 (iv) has the present capacity to pro-
4 vide resources responsive to the needs and
5 priorities of such urban area and contig-
6 uous areas;

7 (v) offers a range of professional,
8 technical, or graduate programs sufficient
9 to sustain the capacity of such institution
10 to provided such resources;

11 (vi) has demonstrated and sustained a
12 sense of responsibility to such urban area
13 and contiguous areas and the people of
14 such areas; and

15 (vii) has a school of business accred-
16 ited by the American Assembly of Colle-
17 giate Schools of Business (or similar orga-
18 nization) with faculty experienced in con-
19 ducting research on issues of immediate
20 concern to small and emerging businesses.

21 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
23 tion—

24 (1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1996; and

- 1 (2) such sums as may be necessary for fiscal
- 2 years 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000.

